

THE JAWS OF DEATH.

The Gallant Charge of Thirty Years Ago.

ACCOUNT BY AN EYE-WITNESS

Of the Memorable Tragedy at Balaklava—Some Incidents Lately Published.

It was thirty years ago that the Earl of Cardigan's light brigade made its famous charge at Sebastopol. A gentleman who was on the staff of an English general, and witnessed the charge, gives the *Pittsburg Dispatch* this description of it:

"On October 25, 1854, our eyes turned to the heights of Balaklava, on the possession of which depended the very existence of the allied forces. On that day the Russians made a desperate attack on our lines, to be as desperately repulsed. Word was sent to headquarters that the enemy, under cover of a heavy fire from the forts, had left Sebastopol in force and was massing himself so as to threaten the safety of the heights. I was at once sent with an order for the cavalry and horse artillery to move and be ready to assume the offensive. They had not to wait long. The Turkish lines were swept by a whirlwind, and with our Mohammedan allies the word was *innah qu'perit*. The heavy cavalry on the right and the light brigade on the left were advanced, with the artillery in the center playing a game at long bowls. Meanwhile a Russian battery was ostentatiously moved forward, whose well-served guns promised to be embarrassing.

"Lord Raglan, who did not know the full strength of the foe, saw that this obstacle must be removed; but whether or not he also foresaw the necessity of first looking before the leap was taken, must be forever a mystery. The commanders of the cavalry brigades, Lord Lucan and Cardigan, brothers-in-law, between whom no love was lost, were waiting the word to engage. Lord Lucan being the senior officer. To them sped Captain Nolan, a dashing huzzar. Saluting the general, he said he bore an order—unwritten—from Lord Raglan that the battery must be silenced and the guns captured. Lord Lucan, a man so cautious as to have earned the nickname 'Lord Look-on,' fearing to expose his small force to any ambushed dangers, asked for more definite orders. With a slightly contemptuous turn of the handsome lip, the aide-de-camp, pointed in the direction of the battery, and said:

"You see your enemy, my lord."

"Even the earl of Cardigan, impetuous as he was generally speaking, looked at his commander in doubt as to the work. But, owing to the unhappy enmity existing between them, neither would speak his thoughts, and once more Nolan, impatiently waving his sword, which he had fiercely drawn from its scabbard, and pointing it to the artillery, cried: 'Take the guns; these are your orders!'

"The crisis has arrived. No resource is left out to do as he bids. A cold nod of assent from Lord Lucan. A profound bow follows from Lord Cardigan. 'Light division forward, charge!' breaks from his lips. An echoing cheer is the reply from 600 throats, as with clang of scabbard and rattle of bridle and bit, and the braying of the trumpet, and the ringing cheer of the 'Heavies,' the 4th and 13th Lights, 9th and 11th Hussars, the latter Lord Cardigan's own corps, conspicuous in their cherry-colored tunics, and the 17th lancers, with ranks closed up and squadrons dressed as evenly as if at a march past, trot forward down the slight declivity. At their head ride the gallant Nolan and the dauntless Cardigan—even in this supreme moment with a reckless laugh upon his face, as he argues some point of war with his brother huzzar.

"The unmasked batteries are already belching forth shot and shell. The trot breaks into a gallop, the gallop into a furious, headlong charge. Already Nolan has fallen, cut down by grape shot, the secret of the fatal day dying with him. The serried ranks showed frequent gaps as saddle after saddle is emptied. 'Close up! Close up! Charge!' is the incessant cry, and in a shorter time than it takes to tell the opening ranks of the foe disclosed to the doomed, but indomitable few cannon to right of them, cannon to left of them, cannon in front of them—and now cannon behind them. On through the broken Russian line pressed the noble army of martyrs, their oriflamme, their brave leader's flashing sabre, their support.

"With a wild cheer and a wider leap the cherry-clad heroes fly over the guns as lightly as they would over a five-barred gate on the hunting field, sabering the gunners as they leap. A beardless boy, not yet seventeen, holds fast to the colors he has sworn to carry to death or victory and falls with the cry: 'My mother will hear of this!' on his dying lips, still grasping that banner in his hand.

"Far away, clear in front, with his aide-camp and a few choice spirits on his right hand and on his left, some ahead of him, raging like a lion, fighting as with forlorn hope, the leader and commander of the light brigade. He bears a charmed life, and his brawny arm is endowed with a power of slaughter that grows mightier every moment from the meat it feeds on. Further and further he dashes on, clearing his way with his blood-stained sword till he reaches the last of the guns.

"Here, when the end is not yet, but that rank upon rank of cavalry and infantry, with heavy artillery in the rear, stretches out back to the city's utmost bastion, he recognizes how useless it will be further to tempt the fates and fight one against a hundred. Coolly and calmly, as if in Hyde Park, he takes the situation at a glance, and gives the word to the trumpeter to sound first the 'assembly,' then the 'retreat.' A bullet crashes through the boy's hand as he raises his trumpet to his mouth, but, stoic-like, he makes no sign. Clear rings out the summons. A dozen only answer the call. Not one, save Lord Cardigan, but is wounded more or less severely, and his clothing shows where lance or sabre or ball had plowed their way over his unscathed flesh. Right about the little band turns, leaving the boy trumpet dead on the ground behind them.

"The enemy, paralyzed by the shock of the charge, and fancying that the whole British army supports the hand-

ful of braves, pauses in his murderous work to cheer the 108 survivors who returned slowly and sadly to the place from which they came, having from military standpoint, achieved nothing, yet covered with a deathless, fadeless wreath of glory. 'It was magnificent,' said General Bosquet, 'but it was not war.'

The Greatest City in the World.

A correspondent of the New Orleans *Times-Democrat* has supplied the following particulars to our American contemporary: "London, England, is the greatest city the world ever saw. It is the heart of the British empire and the world. It covers within the fifteen miles radius of Charing Cross (Strand) 700 square miles. It numbers within these boundaries 5,000,000 of inhabitants. It comprises over 200,000 foreigners from every quarter of the globe. It contains more Roman Catholics than Rome itself; more Jews than the whole of Palestine; more Irish than Dublin; more more Scotchmen than Edinburgh; more Welshmen than Cardiff; more countrymen than the counties of Devon, Warwickshire, and Durham combined. Has a birth in it every five minutes; has a death in it every eight minutes; has seven accidents every day in its 8,000 miles of streets; has on an average forty miles of streets opened and 15,000 new houses built in it every year. In 1883 there were added 22,119 new houses to the vast aggregate of dwellings which is called the metropolis, thus forming 368 new streets and one new square, covering a distance of sixty-six miles and eighty-four yards. It is difficult to form any mental picture from these figures. Brighton, (the queen of watering places) in 1881 had 36,570 inhabitants, so that London in 1883 added to itself a town bigger than Brighton. It would require two Cambridges, or Oxfords, or Bathes to represent the addition made to London in a single year. London has 46,000 persons annually added (by birth) to its population; has over 1,000 ships and 10,000 sailors in its ports every day; has as many beer shops and gin palaces as would, if placed side by side, stretch from Charing Cross to Portsmouth, a distance of seventy-eight miles; has 38,000 drunkards annually brought before its magistrates; has seventy miles of open shops every Sunday; has an influence with all parts of the world represented by a yearly delivery in its postal districts of 298,000,000 letters; 600 trains pass Charing Cross every day, and the Transportation (underground) Railroad runs 1,211 trains every day. The London Omnibus Company have over 700 buses, which carry 50,000,000 passengers annually. It is more dangerous to walk the streets of London than to travel by railroad or to cross the Atlantic from New Orleans to Liverpool. Last year 130 persons were killed and 2,600 injured by vehicles in the streets. There are in London 15,000 police, 15,000 cabmen, 15,000 persons connected with the post office. The cost of gas for lighting London annually is \$3,000,000. London has 400 daily and weekly newspapers. Last year there were nearly 600 fires. The ancient and famous City of London was first founded by Brutus, the Trojan, in the year of the world, 2832, so that since the first building it is 3066 years old. The drainage system of London is superb, and the death rate very low." C. H. WALTON.

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750. A nice lot, 3x20, on Eighth street, cheap, Eleventh Ward.

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350. Corner lot, 4x3 rods, good location, in Tenth Ward.

175. Fine city lot, 2x10 rods, on Third East street, choice and cheap, Third Ward.

750. A nice lot, 5x10 in the Twenty-first Ward.

850. A nice lot on Brigham street, fine location.

250. A corner lot, in good location for residence, 2x10 rods, very cheap.

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